IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Adler, John C.

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Cisco Technology, Inc.

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Technology Center 2600 A Path Routing and Provisioning Method and Apparatus

09/768,117

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San Jose, California March 5, 2001

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

The following Amendments and Remarks are submitted for entry into the application filed on January 23, 2001. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to the first Office Action on the merits in the above-captioned case. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims.

- 3Ø. (New) A method for a data communications system, the method comprising: receiving data in a transport overhead field by at least one network element, the data providing a source identifier and a destination identifier; and using the data in the transport overhead field to provide end-to-end services.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the transport overhead field is a J1 field in a SONET communication packet.

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